



E-Newsletter www.house.gov/simpson July 22, 2003

What's Up this Week

Monday

Congressman Simpson will vote on the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2004 in an Appropriations Committee mark-up. The House is expected to take up the legislation on Thursday.

Tuesday

The House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 2357, "Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2003," which would add chiropractors to the veterans health care system. The House is also scheduled to vote on H. Con Res. 212, "Recognizing and Supporting the Goals and Ideals of the Year of the Korean War Veteran" in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

Wednesday:

Simpson will attend Spanish class from 7 to 9 a.m. EDT in the U.S. Capitol. Simpson is one of 12 House members learning Spanish for 12 weeks.

The House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 2210, "School Readiness Act." This legislation would overhaul the current Head Start program. The bill would strengthen academic standards, improve teacher quality and increase Head Start funding.



Congressman Simpson meets with Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Ed Freeman as part of a program celebrating 30 years of an all volunteer military. Ed Freeman displayed heroic actions during the Vietnam War, flying 14 separate rescue missions in an unarmed helicopter during the Ia Drang Valley battle. His actions saved many American soldier's lives.

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Weekly Website

What is “No Child Left Behind?” Learn about this groundbreaking federal legislation and what it means to you!
<http://www.nclb.gov>

Federal Facts

The average cell phone call in 2001 lasted just under three minutes, and the average monthly bill ran \$47.37.

Source: The US Census

Idaho History Quiz

Congratulations to Clink Black of Filer, Idaho who correctly answered that Mt. Borah is Idaho’s highest peak at 12,662 feet. It was named after U.S. Senator William Borah who served from 1907 until 1940.

This week’s question: What is Idaho’s state fruit?

Be the first person e-mail back and be featured in next week’s newsletter!

Quote of the Week

“The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.”

— Elbert Hubbard

House Passes Two Bills Aimed at Improving Teacher Training, Recruitment

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson joined the House of Representatives in passing two bills that improve education by training, recruiting and retaining qualified teachers.

“The Ready To Teach Act” (H.R. 2211) amends Title II of the Higher Education Act, by providing three types of grants to improve the training of the teachers. The bill also includes accountability provisions that will strengthen reporting measures and hold teacher preparation programs accountable for providing accurate and useful information.

The “Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act” (H.R. 438) expands the current teacher loan forgiveness program to address critical shortage areas in math, science and special education. The bill will increase the total loan forgiveness up to \$17,500 for those teaching these high-need subjects.

“One of the important issues facing education is attracting and keeping first-rate teachers, especially in technical subjects like math and science. In fact more than 60 percent of America’s schools have teacher vacancies in math and biology. This bill makes it easier to retain qualified teachers by offering loan forgiveness incentives,” Simpson said. “The long term success of our educational system relies on the quality of teaching professionals.”

Did you know?

There’s approximately 3 million public school teachers in the United States and 14,000 in Idaho.



House Passes Energy and Water Appropriations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, today supported passage of the fiscal year 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations bill which included funding for several Idaho water and energy-related initiatives.

“While this bill certainly is not perfect, it represents a good start on our efforts to secure adequate funding for both cleanup and laboratory operations next year,” said Simpson. “I am particularly pleased with the language calling on the DOE to move the majority of Nuclear Energy programs to the INEEL and the \$20 million provided to the INEEL to advance the repository program. Given Senator Craig’s success with the reactor and other projects on the Senate side, I believe we are well positioned for conference of this bill early this fall.”

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill provides \$27.1 billion in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, and several independent agencies. Among its many provisions, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill contains funding for the following important energy-related programs:

- At least \$20 million for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) to share expertise with the DOE Office of Radioactive Waste Management and the Yucca Mountain project on the handling, packaging, and transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste in preparation for the opening of Yucca Mountain. The INEEL is recognized across the country for its expertise on the handling of spent nuclear fuel including that from naval reactors, foreign-research reactors, and Three-Mile Island.
- \$3 million for Idaho State University’s continuing work at the Idaho Accelerator Center.
- Important language recognizing the INEEL as the nation’s leading nuclear energy research and development laboratory and stating the Energy and Water Subcommittee’s expectation that, “...the Secretary will re-align the distribution of fiscal year 2004 funding by site under the Nuclear Energy Research and Development program so that the majority of laboratory-expended funds for nuclear energy research and development will be allocated to INEEL.”
- Full funding of the President’s requested budget for cleanup and environmental remediation at the INEEL.

The bill also contains funding for the following Idaho water projects.

\$2 million for the City of Burley’s Wastewater Treatment System Project. This is the fourth installment of federal funding for a new wastewater treatment facility which would help the community attract new businesses and create new jobs;

In addition, the bill approves funding contained within President Bush’s budget request for operation and maintenance of Albeni Falls Dam, Dworshak Dam and Reservoir, and Lucky Peak Lake. The bill also approves funds for the Corps of Engineers’ Minidoka area projects and Boise area projects, and \$15 million for the Columbia and Snake River Salmon Recovery Project.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill now heads to a joint House/Senate conference where the differences between the two bills will be reconciled.

NAFTA Panel Rules Canadian Softwood Tariffs Legal

Washington, DC -Idaho Senators Mike Crapo and Larry Craig and Idaho Representatives Mike Simpson and C.L. "Butch" Otter welcomed the news that a North American Free Trade Agreement panel has upheld the U.S.-imposed tariffs on lumber imports from Canada. The five-judge panel determined that the United States can maintain the tariffs, which are generally 8.42 percent Canada-wide. The tariff has been imposed since May of last year after a determination by the International Trade Commission that the Canadians were selling softwood lumber producers at unfairly low prices.

"Idaho's timber industry has suffered for years due to unfair trade practices and the dumping of Canadian Softwood lumber on the American market. The ruling proves that the U.S. did the right thing by placing tariffs on incoming lumber, and it is acceptable under the terms of NAFTA," Simpson said. "Hopefully this ruling will end a chapter of disagreements on this issue."

Delegation Reacts to Slickspot Peppergrass Listing

WASHINGTON, DC - Idaho Senators Larry Craig and Mike Crapo and Representatives Mike Simpson and C.L. "Butch" Otter praised the announcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to delay the listing decision of slickspot peppergrass as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for six months. The potential listing could negatively affect grazing and severely limit training for Mountain Home Air Force Base.

"I am pleased the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reopening the comment period for slickspot peppergrass," said Representative Mike Simpson. "Decisions to list a species can have devastating impacts on Idaho's ranchers and rural communities. It is for this reason that listings must be based upon the best available science and I am hopeful that this extension will allow the USFWS to do just that."

Delegation Announces Emergency Hay and Grazing

WASHINGTON, DC - Idaho Senators Larry Craig and Mike Crapo and Representatives Mike Simpson and C.L. "Butch" Otter announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved emergency haying and grazing on land designated under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for twenty Idaho counties including Bannock, Bingham, Lincoln, Blaine, Bonneville, Bear Lake, Caribou, Cassia, Jefferson, Clark, Franklin, Fremont, Jerome, Lemhi, N. Custer, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, Teton and Twin Falls. USDA has also approved managed haying and grazing for all Idaho counties. Haying is authorized from July 7 through October 1, 2003. Grazing is authorized from July 1 through December 1, 2003.

"I'm grateful the USDA has acted today to grant our request for emergency CRP haying and grazing authority for Idaho ranchers," said Congressman Mike Simpson. "I've heard from a lot of ranchers about how important this approval is and I'm glad we now have some good news for them. I also want to commend Idaho FSA Director Wayne Hammon for working closely with the Congressional Delegation and the USDA to ensure this request was approved." Congressman Otter noted, "I'm glad to see the USDA folks are working with farmers and ranchers on this problem. It's good news when federal agencies get ahead of the curve so they can respond to natural disasters with something other than relief checks. It just makes sense for producers to be able to put these resources to use rather than watching drought put their livelihoods at risk."

Homeland Security

<http://www.ready.gov> is the Department of Homeland Security's website aimed at providing information on personal preparedness. When evaluating your family's needs, there are several things to consider. To make an emergency kit you'll need: food, fresh water, clean air and warmth. Previous e-newsletters have addressed each of these topics. In addition, here's some other items to think about:

Emergency Supplies

The basics of survival: **water**, **food** and **clean air** are essential, but some of the following items may make a time of crisis more comfortable.

Basic Supplies

- **Flashlight** and extra **batteries**
- Battery powered **radio** and extra batteries
- Plastic **garbage bags**, ties and toilet paper for personal sanitation
- **First aid kit**
- **Map** of the area for evacuation or for locating shelters
- A **whistle** to signal for help
- **Moist towelettes**

Clothing and Bedding

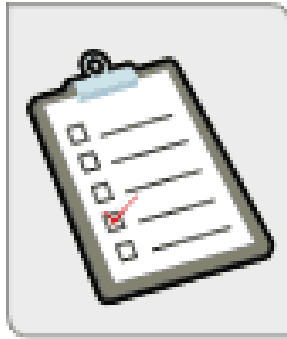
If you live in a cold weather climate, you must think about warmth. It is possible that the power will be out and you will not have heat. Rethink your clothing and bedding supplies once a year to account for growing children and other changes.

- Have at least **one complete change of warm clothing** and shoes per person including:
 - A jacket or coat
 - Long pants
 - A long sleeve shirt
 - Sturdy shoes
 - A hat and gloves
- A **sleeping bag** or warm blanket for each person.

Tools

The basics of survival: water, food, and clean air are essential, but some of the following items may make a time of crisis more comfortable:

- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or a print out of this information



- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife
- Paper towels
- Fire extinguisher: small canister, ABC type
- Tube tent
- Pliers

- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Feminine supplies
- Personal hygiene items
- Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach You can use bleach as a disinfectant (diluted 9 parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.

Important Family Documents

- Keep copies of important family records such as insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.